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IDEA 0389

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20 July 1961

MEMORANDUM FOR: Chief, Special Projects Branch, DPD

SUBJECT : Intelligence Information for  
Operations Order

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1. General Situation:

A requirement exists for photographic coverage of North Vietnam and Hainan Island to determine the stage and scope of the ChiCom military build-up for possible intervention in Laos or South Vietnam.

2. Order of Battle:

It is believed that the flight will be detected and tracked by ChiCom radar and probably identified as hostile. However, the ChiComs have no known capability to interfere with the mission aircraft if it maintains planned altitude. There are no confirmed surface-to-air missile sites in China or North Vietnam. The best manned interceptor available to the ChiComs (the MIG-19) is not capable of operating above 62,500 feet and none of these are known to be deployed in the vicinity of the flight route. Antiaircraft Artillery does not pose any threat.

3. Targets:

Highest priority targets on this mission are as follows:

- a. Rail line Northeast from Hanoi to Chinese Border.
- b. Rail line Northwest from Hanoi to Chinese Border.
- c. Dual highway South from Hanoi to South Vietnam.
- d. Yulin, Hainan Island
- e. Fuluo, Hainan Island
- f. Pasuo, Hainan Island
- g. Lingshui, Hainan Island

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4. Escape and Evasion:

The pilot should be briefed that in event of an emergency resulting in forced landing or bail out, the aircraft should in no event be permitted to fall into the hands of the ChiComs. If unable to reach friendly territory (Thailand, South Vietnam south of the 17th parallel, or Laos territory held by friendly forces, in that order of preference) the aircraft should be headed out to sea prior to bail out. Standard evasion techniques should be employed in an attempt to return to friendly control.

SIGNED



Chief, Intelligence Staff

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